



Dear parents;

While fraternities and sororities have a proud tradition in American higher education, the fraternity and sorority community at The Pennsylvania State University can trace its roots to the early 1870's.

Today, there are 92 recognized Greek-letter organizations at Penn State for students to choose from, some having over a century of history here at University Park. This is a proud heritage that students can become part of by becoming a member of one of our recognized organizations.

Although fraternities and sororities are student organizations, they are very different from other clubs that are available to students at Penn State. Becoming a member of a Greek-Letter organization is a lifelong commitment that only begins in college. When students join a recognized fraternity or sorority, they join an organization that creates a bond that will unite them with their brothers or sisters on campus and throughout the United States, in common bonds and mutual beliefs.

The organizations select their new members and provide them with information about the organization so they fully understand and appreciate what it means to be a member of the organization. Once the new member education period is completed, the student becomes a full-fledged member of the chapter.

Fraternity men and sorority women at Penn State have a strong commitment to philanthropy and community service. Members of the organizations continue to demonstrate this commitment through their participation in our nationally acclaimed IFC-Panhellenic Dance Marathon program, the largest student-run philanthropic event in the United States, and through many hours of service to the State College community.

Membership in a fraternity or sorority can be a great way to become involved at Penn State and create life-long friendships. Please look through the information on our web site, it may answer some questions that you have. If you still have any questions, feel free to contact me or any member of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. We are here to help you and your student have a great Penn State experience.

Sincerely,

Roy W. Baker, Ed.D.  
Director  
Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life